

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/611,990
Atty Docket No.: Q76445

REMARKS

The Office Action of February 11, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1 to 17 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present amendment.

Applicants have added new claims 18 to 21. Support for claim 18 can be found at pages 73 and 74 of the specification. Support for claims 19 to 21 can be found at page 74 of the specification.

In Paragraphs 2 to 7 in the Office Action, the Examiner sets forth six separate rejections of the claims based on obviousness type double patenting as being unpatentable over the claims of six different copending applications. The six different applications, with their published patent application numbers in parentheses, are as follows: 10/807,442 (US 2004/0200385), 10/805,251 (US 2005/0001890), 10/600,831 (US 2004/0011248), 10/806,452 (US 2004/0189765), 10/660,653 (US 2004/0080595) and 10/806,424 (US 2004/0194660).

In response, applicants enclose herewith a Submission of Terminal Disclaimer together with a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to each of the cited copending applications and the appropriate fee.

In view of the above, applicants request withdrawal of the double patenting rejections.

Claims 1-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by published patent application US 2004/0011248 to Taguchi et al. The Taguchi et al '248 publication corresponds to the copending application that the Examiner employed in the double patenting rejection in Paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

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The present application is based on applicants' Japanese priority Application No. 2002-196112 filed in Japan on July 4, 2002, which is before the June 23, 2003 U.S. filing date of Taguchi et al '248. Applicants enclose herewith a verified translation of applicants' Japanese priority document, which supports all of the recitations of the present claims. Accordingly, applicants submit that Taguchi et al '248 cannot be used as a reference against the present claims.

In view of the above, applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

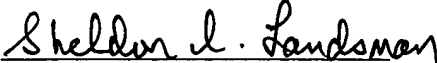
Respectfully submitted,

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